

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 20, 21, 28 and 29 are amended. Claims 30-36 are added and claim 11 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 16 contains allowable subject matter.

The specification is amended for clarification purposes only.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 19 and 22-29 under 35 U.S. C. §102(e) over Hardman (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0126005); and claims 11-15, 17, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S. C. §103(a) over Hardman and LeMense (U.S. Patent No. 6,441,727). Claim 11 is canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 11 is moot. However, the rejections are respectfully traversed as applied to the remaining claims.

In particular, neither of the applied references disclose or suggest an identification-data registration assisting device including at least a relative-movement device operable to move said signal transmitting portion and said corresponding one wheel-side device relative to each other, wherein a signal transmitting portion is provided outside a vehicle, as recited in claims 1, 28 and 29.

Specifically, the Office Action admits that Hardman does not disclose a device for rotating a signal transmitting portion. The Office Action asserts that LeMense discloses an arrangement to spin the tire 20 in order to reprogram the identification data in the main ECU 40 while the tire 20 is elevated from the traveling surface 44 by lift or hoist 46. Thus, although the tire 20 is free to be rotated by hand, e.g., manually rotated by a worker (see col. 4, lines 41-62), the tire operation associated with registration is not at least partly automated so that a worker is relieved of the manual operation.

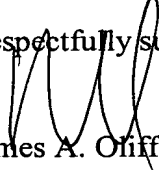
In contrast to the claimed invention, neither of the applied references disclose or suggest at least a relative-movement device operable to move said signal transmitting portion and said corresponding one wheel-side device relative to each other, wherein a signal transmitting portion is provided outside a vehicle. On the contrary, nowhere in the applied references are these features disclosed or suggested.

Because Hardman does not disclose these features, Hardman fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Moreover, LeMense does not compensate for deficiencies in Hardman because LeMense instead discloses that the tire 20 must be rotated manually (by hand) for registration of wheel identification data. Thus, because there is no device operable to move a signal transmitting portion and a corresponding wheel-side device relative to each other, the arrangement in LeMense corresponds to the prior art apparatus discussed in paragraph [0002] of the present application. Accordingly, because it would not have been obvious to combine the applied references to arrive at the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S. C. §102(e) and 35 U.S. C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-36 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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